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Sustainable development: report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Raymond **Landveld** (Suriname)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 19 (see A/66/440, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 34th and 36th meetings, on 10 and 22 November 2011. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/66/SR.34 and 36).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/66/L.45 and A/C.2/66/L.57

2. At the 34th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Argentina, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session" (A/C.2/66/L.45), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/200 of 20 December 2000, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 64/204 of 21 December 2009, 65/162 of 20 December 2010 and other previous resolutions relating to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 11 parts, under the symbol A/66/440 and Add.1-10.

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"*Reaffirming* the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'),

"*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling also* the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,

"*Reaffirming* its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme, as set out in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997 and in the Nusa Dua Declaration of 26 February 2010,

"*Noting* the ongoing preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

"*Stressing* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of this issue,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session and the decisions contained therein;

"2. *Recognizes* that 2012 marks the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme;

"3. *Reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and in this regard notes that the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series and its related summary for policymakers is currently under development, and stresses the need to enhance the policy relevance of the Outlook by, inter alia, identifying policy options to speed up the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and to inform global and regional processes and meetings where progress towards the agreed goals will be discussed, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

"4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Governing Council to approve the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013;

"5. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

"6. *Also reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

"7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', a sub-item entitled 'Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session'."

3. At its 36th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session" (A/C.2/66/L.57), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.45.

4. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.57.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.57 had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at its 36th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.57 (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.45 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/200 of 20 December 2000, 57/251 of December 2002, 64/204 of 21 December 2009, 65/162 of 20 December 2010 and other previous resolutions relating to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Taking into account Agenda 21[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2]

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[3] and its principles,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4]

Recalling also the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[5]

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as set out in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997[6] and in the Nusa Dua Declaration of 26 February 2010,[7]

Acknowledging the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Noting that 2012 marks the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

[7] Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/65/25), annex I, decision SS.XI/9.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session[8] and the decisions contained therein;[9]

2. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the work of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. *Reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and in this regard notes that the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series and its related summary for policymakers is currently under development, and stresses the need to enhance the policy relevance of the Outlook by, inter alia, identifying policy options to speed up the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and to inform global and regional processes and meetings where progress towards the agreed goals will be discussed, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

5. *Welcomes* the approval of the programme of work and the budget for the period 2012-2013;

6. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

7. *Takes note* of United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision 26/1 of 24 February 2011 on international environmental governance,[9] and of the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome;[10]

8. *Reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session".

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[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/66/25).

[9] Ibid., annex.

[10] UNEP/GC.26/18, annex.